Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 26, 2014

Central Office

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Northeast
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Central
St. Louis
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Commission Previews Draft Project List, Approves FY2015 Budget

by Bob Brendel

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger yesterday briefed the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on the draft list of projects that would be delivered with Constitutional Amendment 7 revenue and the public vetting process that has been underway for the last several weeks.

Missouri voters will decide on Constitutional Amendment 7, which establishes a 10-year, ¾-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation purposes, at the primary election on August 5.

Hassinger emphasized that the draft project list has been put together in collaboration with planning partners and that it reflects priorities that exist at the local and regional level. Public comment will be accepted until 5 p.m., July 3. The commission will approve the final list at its July 9 meeting.

"We have laid so much groundwork in the last few years to have done this the right way and the professional way," Hassinger said.

The draft list includes:
• A six-lane Interstate 70;
• More than 400 bridge projects throughout the state, including five major river bridges;
• 3,200 miles of roadway resurfacing throughout the state;
• 750 miles of new shoulders for minor roadways;
• 29 interchange improvements;
• Seven improved ports;
• 14 railway projects;
• 23 airport improvements;
• Statewide public transit improvements; and
• 61 sidewalk and non-motorized projects throughout the state.

Commission Chairman Stephen Miller said, "This is a special time, a unique time because today we are defining the transportation future of our state." Also yesterday the Commission approved a $2.2 billion budget for MoDOT for Fiscal Year 2015, which begins July 1. The budget is down from $3.0 billion in 2011, and reflects a projected reduction in federal funds of $93.3 million.

Director's Report: Dave Nichols told the commission that fatalities on Missouri roadways has risen four percent – or 11 lives – from a year ago, and that's unacceptable. He said it is a national trend – that as highway funding goes down, fatalities go up. With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, he looked back at Memorial Day weekend when eight people died in highway crashes and none of them were wearing a seatbelt.

He also reminded the commission of the situation in Washington, D.C., where the Highway Trust Fund is expected to be insolvent July 31, which could have severe implications on MoDOT's ability to be reimbursed on federal-aid projects, and also on transit systems that rely on federal funds to maintain service.

Team Talk - FY2015 State Budget Update

by Roberta Broeker

For quite a few years now, we know as state employees that we aren't guaranteed a cost of living increase when the new fiscal year rolls around.

For the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, the proposed cost of living raise is off the table for now. At a news conference on June 24, Governor Jay Nixon announced his approval of the FY2015 state budget, but restricted $850 million and vetoed $275 million in appropriations.

Vetoed items are removed from the budget completely. Restricted items are withheld from the budget at this time, and could be restored at a later date. The Governor's action was based on state revenue projections from the Office of Administration, which varied from the projections developed by the Missouri legislature. For the past several years, the administration and the legislature reached a "consensus" revenue projection before budget development began. For the fiscal year 2015 budget, these two groups could not reach consensus, which set the stage for many of disagreements that occurred during this year's legislative session.

The governor has restricted the 1 percent cost of living increase that was to begin Jan. 1, 2015. The $25 per month match for employees participating in the deferred compensation program was also restricted. It was to begin July 1, 2014.

Both items remain in the budget. At some point during the year, the Governor could decide, based for example on improved state revenue collections, to remove the restriction and allow one or both of these items to occur. If that happens, we'll let you know as soon as we know.

I know this news is a disappointment to you. At the same time, I want to remind you of the value of the state's deferred compensation program, even without the state match. The State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan (www.modeferredcomp.org) is an excellent way to help prepare yourself for retirement by investing a portion of your income now.

Contributing even a few dollars a month can make a difference down the road. It's worth the effort to save a little extra now so you can be more financially secure when you retire. If you aren't already enrolled in the program, or if you want to add a little more or get a refresher on what services and tools are available, check out the web site or schedule an appointment with your regional benefits representative.

Like I said before, I know the budget restrictions are a big disappointment. At the risk of sounding like Pollyanna, I'm going to end by saying this is one of those times when we all get to choose how we're going to deal with bad news. We can choose to take it in stride and remain optimistic that the budget restrictions will be lifted. Or we can choose to get mad and grouse and bring down the mood of all our coworkers. I hope you'll decide to roll with the punches and put on a brave face. Decide the circumstances aren't in control. You're in control.

Thank you and stay safe

New Safety Videos Get "Back to Basics"

by Tammy Wallace

Human Resources, Risk & Benefits and Customer Relations staff are teaming together to bring new safety videos to employees. These short safety videos are about getting back to basics by demonstrating the safe way to perform common tasks.

The videos are geared mainly toward maintenance workers, who are typically the employees with the tasks that often have the highest odds of causing injury. These videos will be a great tool for morning safety discussions, but all employees can benefit by watching the videos.

For instance, the first video on shoveling safety is a task done by many employees at work or at home. This video shows Tom Rutledge, Winona maintenance, demonstrating a shoveling technique that promotes working safely. Moving your body and leg to take an extra step in the shoveling process reduces the risk of lower back injury - http://youtu.be/uB2dITssnnE.

A calendar for producing monthly back-to-basics videos and other related safety materials is being developed. The topics will coordinate with seasonal operations, and with accidents and injuries that occur during that time.

As new videos are completed, they will be launched in MoDOT Now's video section and Connections. They will be housed on MoDOT's comprehensive safety site on the videos page - http://wwwi/intranet/SafetyVideos.htm *(link works for employees only)*.

Watch for another new video next month!

Click above to see the how taking an extra step when shoveling can help prevent lower back injury.

Reminder – New PPE Requirements Begin July 1

by Tammy Wallace

Employees are reminded that MoDOT has updated the personal protection equipment requirements, effective July 1. If you need PPE, talk with your supervisor or safety manager.

The most significant change for employees is for nighttime flaggers.

- Nighttime flaggers shall wear hard hats that are both highly visible and reflective.
- High visibility stickers or beanies can be added to hard hats for nighttime flagging.
- Employees needing stickers and/or beanies should contact their supervisor or local safety manager.

The new requirements provide a lot of flexibility and options on the PPE employees can wear. The flexibility will help keep employees comfortable while still keeping them safe.

Check the PPE posters in your building each day to make sure you have everything you need. Watch a video that highlights these changes – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KWs9h0Oqzk.

Check out the video that highlights the changes.

by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT employees statewide have accepted the challenge to get moving. Collectively, we have logged 26,445 miles in the past few months. MoDOT is participating in the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles challenge with a healthy internal competition to see who can go the most miles. Currently, the Central Office employees are in first place in the MoDOT challenge, but the St. Louis District is a close second.

If you have not signed up yet, it is not too late. Register now, and you have until December 31, 2014, to log your miles.

1. Visit http://100missourimiles.com/ and create an account on any computer or device.
2. Select the Groups tab at the top of the page.
3. Under *Find a Group*, select workplace.
4. Enter "MoDOT" as the Keyword.
5. Select your District or the Central Office team.

6. Join the group, get active, then log your miles on the website.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Bagwill or Amanda Henley in Human Resources.

District	People	Miles
Central District	29	1,908
Central Office	82	5,353
Kansas City	31	2,653
Northeast	15	1,122
Northwest	29	2,453
Southeast	53	3,520
Southwest	45	4,274
St. Louis	33	5,162
TOTAL COMBINED	317	26,445

More Parking at Mineola

Westbound Interstate 70's Mineola Truck Parking area (at mile marker 169) is now open with a total of 64 truck parking spots. That's 40 additional spots!

Funding for the expansion was possible mainly from a $1 million federal grant to build additional truck parking on I-70.

Missouri has more than doubled the number of truck parking spaces along its interstates in the past several years by converting shuttered weigh stations and rest areas.

Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge Receives Accolades

by Tammy Wallace

The George S. Richardson Medal was presented to Randy Hitt (right) by the Western Pennsylvania of Professional Engineers.

The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge connecting Missouri and Illinois was honored with the George S. Richardson Medal at the annual international bridge conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. The award is presented for a single outstanding achievement in bridge engineering.

Randy Hitt, Mississippi River Bridge Project Director, received the award on behalf of MoDOT at the conference. This was the first time the award was received by a U.S. bridge since 2009.

The bridge opened to traffic last February.

Impaired Driving Could Mean a Deadly Holiday Weekend

by Kelly Jackson

Are you looking forward to the red, white and blue flashing lights of the Independence Day holiday? If you're thinking about drinking and driving, those lights may be flashing from a patrol car - and the view of the fireworks is not so good from a local jail cell.

The Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to substance-impaired driving crashes. Local law enforcement will be out in full force July 2-6 seeking impaired drivers through increased sobriety checkpoints, roving and saturation patrols and other enforcement methods. There are no warnings and no excuses. If you drive impaired, you will be arrested. Don't risk losing your independence by choosing to drink and drive.

"Last year 19 people were killed in traffic crashes over the Fourth of July holiday," said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "Thirteen of those fatalities involved a substance-impaired driver."

Often, people have a hard time recuperating financially from the cost of an arrest or the crash itself. Violators risk killing or harming others, face jail time, the loss of their driver licenses, higher insurance rates and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost time at work.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety recommends these simple tips to avoid a drunk-driving disaster:

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to call local law enforcement.
- Always wear your seat belt. It's your best defense in any traffic crash.

For more information, visit www.saveMOlives.com, or find them on Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives.

Fatality Update

What's Happening

Chat With The Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post. This week he talks about why we're reaching out to Missourians through a series of public meetings to discuss the projects associated with Constitutional Amendment 7. Chat with the Chief.

EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's May meeting have been posted on the EAC website at http://wwwi/intranet/eac/documents/May2014.pdf *(link works for employees only)*.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.

Stay in the Now!

Get the latest MoDOT news each morning on your computer desktop, tablet or smartphone. Be sure to check MoDOT Now every day. And don't forget to click on the videos and other news sections too.

New day – fresh news!

June Retirements

Carrol D. Hoffman – NE – 15 years
Gene M. Ryan – NE – 22 years
Richard A. Arnold – NE – 29 years
Donald R. Thomas – KC – 14 years
Elmer H. Gillespie – KC – 17 years
David W. Manking – KC – 37 years
Randall S. Bruce – CD – 29 years
Judith A. Shrum – SW – 30 years
Kristin M. Ryan – SE – 28 years
Terry A. Bolton – CO – 30 years
Steven W. Coker – CO - 30 years

In Memoriam

Albert Mason - former D4 – May 11
Bill Maroney - former D7 – May 15
Frankie Foster - former D4 – May 17
Billy Mason - former D6 – May 22
Robert Mullin - former D4 – May 22
Charles Thurman - former D4 – May 29
Kenneth White - former D3 – June 3
Paul Fogle - CO – June 12
Hayward Grantham, Jr. - former D8 – June 18
Lowell Conley - former D8 – June 19
Richard Dean - former D6 – June 21

Information Provided and Paid for by

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Connections

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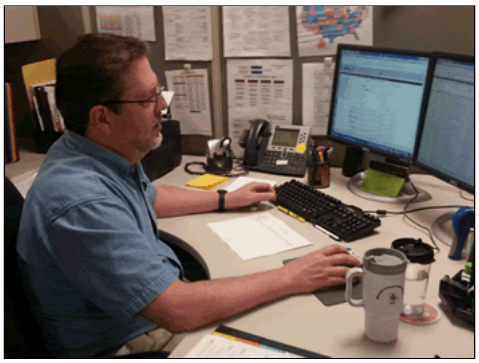
Motor Carrier Services Customer Delighted to the Tune of More Than $100,000

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Kudos to Jack Eastman, senior motor carrier agent, whose close attention to detail really paid off for one of his accounts. The motor carrier submitted an application for annual renewal of its registration. Part of the renewal involves reporting the number of miles traveled in each state.



Senior Motor Carrier Agent Jack Eastman takes customer service to a whole new level.

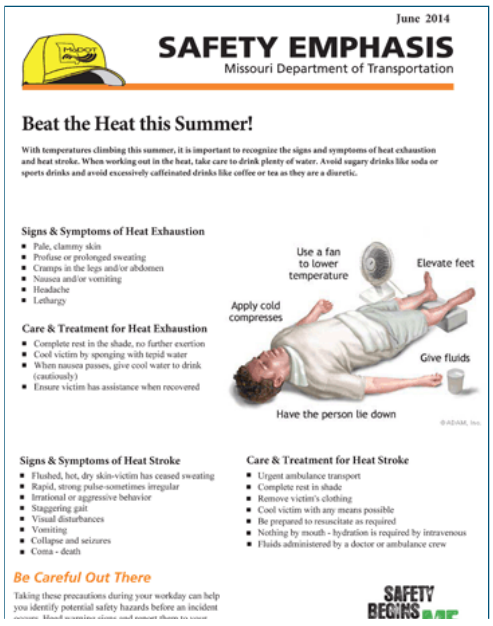
While scanning the routine mileage report, Jack spotted an inconsistency. He suspected the customer made a mistake and called them to verify. A few phone calls and a correction ended up saving this customer more than $162,000 and prevented potential future audit issues for the customer, who wrote this note of appreciation:

I wanted to express how pleased I have been with Jack being our agent...He has been extremely helpful and very patient with all of our needs! I appreciate him finding out that we do travel within two states for our renewal, and saving (us) money as well! He's very knowledgeable and if he is unsure of a situation or problem, he does his research and gets back with me in a timely fashion. I'm so grateful to have such a great agent!

Great job, Jack!

June Health and Safety Tips

Staying Safe During Hot Weather


June 2014

SAFETY EMPHASIS
Missouri Department of Transportation

Beat the Heat this Summer!

With temperatures climbing this summer, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. When working out in the heat, take care to drink plenty of water. Avoid sugary drinks like soda or sports drinks and avoid excessively caffeinated drinks like coffee or tea as they are a diuretic.

Signs & Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion
- Pale, clammy skin
- Profuse or prolonged sweating
- Cramps in the legs and/or abdomen
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Headache
- Lethargy

Care & Treatment for Heat Exhaustion
- Complete rest in the shade, no further exertion
- Cool victim by sponging with tepid water
- When nausea passes, give cool water to drink (cautiously)
- Ensure victim has assistance when recovered

Use a fan to lower temperature
Elevate feet
Apply cold compresses
Give fluids
Have the person lie down

Signs & Symptoms of Heat Stroke
- Flushed, hot, dry skin-victim has ceased sweating
- Rapid, strong pulse-sometimes irregular
- Irrational or aggressive behavior
- Staggering gait
- Visual disturbances
- Vomiting
- Collapse and seizures
- Coma - death

Care & Treatment for Heat Stroke
- Urgent ambulance transport
- Complete rest in shade
- Remove victim's clothing
- Cool victim with any means possible
- Be prepared to resuscitate as required
- Nothing by mouth - hydration is required by intravenous
- Fluids administered by a doctor or ambulance crew

Be Careful Out There

Taking these precautions during your workday can help you identify potential safety hazards before an incident

SAFETY BEGINS

With temperatures climbing this summer, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

When working out in the heat, take care to drink plenty of water. Avoid sugary drinks like soda or sports drinks, and avoid excessively caffeinated drinks like coffee or tea as they are a diuretic.

Click on the flier to see all of the information on how you can keep yourself and your co-works safe during summer heat.

supervisor to help keep you and your co-workers safe. WITHMC

What You Should Know About Rabies in Missouri

Animal rabies occurs year-round in Missouri, but has its highest incidence during late-spring, throughout the summer, and into early-fall. These are the times when wild animals are most active. Increased human outdoor activity coincides with that of wild animals, resulting in significant opportunities for people to be exposed to the rabies virus.

People also can be exposed to rabies by encountering stray dogs and cats in the community, by wild animals (such as bats) entering homes and by unvaccinated pets that have been allowed to roam freely.

For more information about identifying and reducing risk and actions to be taken if bitten, such as caring for wounds and testing, see the flier on the Missouri Department of Health's website - Rabies in Missouri.

Motor Carrier Services Heading to MoDOT Drive

Motor Carrier Services will begin its move to 830 MoDOT Drive in Jefferson City on Aug. 18. As part of the preparation, the division will spend the next several weeks actively informing customers of the move to the new facility. No interruption in computer, telephone or walk-in service is expected.

Although visitors will be welcomed to the new space, the division will continue to be in lock-down status full time because of federal laws regarding the privacy of sensitive business information. If you'd like a tour, just let them know when you enter the public entrance of 830 MoDOT Drive, and they will be happy to show you around.

With this move, MoDOT's Central Office vacates the last of its leased office space. All Central Office employees will then be housed within department-owned facilities.

TIMELINE

Aug. 18	Move begins. Walk-in customers served at the Creek Trail location. MCS' toll-free calls are answered from both locations.
Aug. 19	Move continues. Walk-in customers served at 830 MoDOT Drive. MCS' toll-free calls are answered at 830 MoDOT Drive.
Aug. 20	The last group of employees report to 830 MoDOT Drive. Move is complete by end-of-business.

Central Office Happenings

SKETCHERS Discounts

It's SKETCHERS Friends and Family Discount time again! As a MoDOT employee, you get 30 percent off your qualifying SKETCHERS shoe purchases (see the MEE Zone Deals and Discounts Page for details). Now you can share your discount with friends and family June 25-30. Click on flier for details.

The discount has the following guidelines:

- Valid June 25 through June 30 at SKECHERS retail stores and SKECHERS.com only. There is a retail store at the Lake of the Ozarks.
- Offer valid for employees, their families and friends.
- Not valid on sale or test styles.
- Limit 10 pairs per customer.
- Valid on products $39.95 and over.
- Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or promotions.

Questions? Contact Kristen Bagwill, (573) 751-3941 or Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov

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Building Safety Reminders

Piggy Backing - Unauthorized individuals are still being permitted to enter MoDOT buildings in Jefferson City. Please DO NOT permit any non-MoDOT individuals to enter a secured door. Allowing an unauthorized and unannounced person entry to any building exposes everyone in the building to potential danger.

We all have a role in keeping our workplace secure. Unless you are going to escort the person to the reception desk to ensure they are announced, do not take it upon yourself to simply allow the person to enter the building.

Vehicle Ramp – Employees are not allowed to walk between the first and second floor in the 601 W. Main facility using the vehicle ramp. Pedestrian traffic is prohibited on the ramp except for an emergency. A pedestrian could be seriously hurt

or killed by a vehicle going up or down the ramp.

Thanks for following these safety measures.

Questions?
Contact Tim Taylor
(573) 526-5201 or timothy.taylor@modot.mo.gov

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Central District

Take Your Child to Work Day Huge Success

The Central District's and Central Office's "Take Your Child to Work Day" on July 19 was a huge success at the district offices. More than 100 kids accompanied their parents to work for educational fun and time spent with family. The children and their parents participated in several activities during the day, which included:

* Family photos with MoDOT mascot "Baby Bob."

* An inside look at various pieces of MoDOT's mobile equipment, including bucket trucks, bridge snoopers, snow plows, backhoes, tow plows, dump trucks and stripers.

* Fun activities such as an egg drop where kids and their parents built protective casings on a shoestring budget with the purpose of protecting an egg that was dropped off the roof.

* Lessons on how roadways are made. The kids and parents put what they learned into practice by making asphalt cookies made of oats, quick oats, cocoa powder, sprinkles, M&M's, milk, butter and sugar.

* A tour of the materials laboratory and took a look at the inner workings of MoDOT.

Central District Open Houses

Area Engineer Mike Schupp (right) speaks with a customer about MoDOT's draft transportation project list at an open house meeting on June 16 in Columbia.

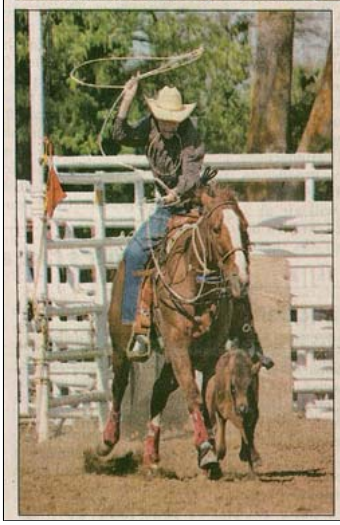
District Engineer David Silvester (right) speaks with a customer about MoDOT's draft transportation project list at an open house meeting on June 19 in Jefferson City.

Around the District ...

Cierra and Colton Hamilton, the children of Facility Operations Supervisor Phil Hamilton, have qualified for the National Junior High Finals Rodeo. In the article (left) courtesy of the St. James Press, Cierra earned her spot on the Missouri Junior High Rodeo team in the barrel racing event and Colton captured a spot in tie-down calf roping. Both siblings finished second in their respective events and both of their horses were AQHA Horses of the Year in Missouri! Congratulations Phil!

Siblings Cierra (left) and Colton (below) Hamilton, of St. James, have both earned spots on the Missouri State Junior High Rodeo Team and will compete at the national finals in Iowa June 22-28.

Wild Ones Photography photos



Rodeo pair head to national finals

By CHRIS DANIELS
cdaniels@saintjamespress.com

Two local students qualified to compete at the world's largest junior high rodeo. Ciera and Colton Hamilton each earned a position on the Missouri State National Junior High Rodeo Team and will be traveling with fellow teammates to Des Moines, Iowa on June 22-28 to compete at the 10th Annual National Junior High Finals Rodeo.

REPORTED FIRST AT saintjamespress.com

Ciera, a seventh-grade student at the St. James Middle School, earned her position in the barrel racing and goat tying competitions. Ciera's horse, Col. Mick, was also awarded the AQHA horse of the year for

See RODEO on page 2A

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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KansasCity District

"Three Strikes, You're Out" Turns Out to Be a Life Saver

Anthony Crusha Helps Rescue Crash Victim

MoDOT maintenance worker Anthony Crusha was on his way to work early Thursday morning, June 12, traveling north on Route 7 in a pouring rain. As he passed Cass County Route TT, he noticed a car overturned in a ditch filled with quickly rising water. He pulled over, stopped to check on the vehicle and was joined by a FedEx truck driver who had seen Crusha stop.

Crusha jumped into the waist-high, rushing water and peered into the vehicle's windows to see a man inside. The victim was alert and began talking to Crusha and the FedEx driver, urging them to get him out. Crusha pulled out his pocket knife and attempted to break open a window, but was unsuccessful. The FedEx driver summoned the driver of a black pickup who had just stopped, and asked him to bring something to break out a window to rescue the crash victim. The pickup driver threw a tire iron across the ditch to Crusha and the FedEx driver, who broke through a window on the third strike.

Within minutes, the victim was free and he joined his rescuers at the edge of the ditch to wait for emergency crews to arrive.

The victim's family came by MoDOT's Cass County Maintenance Building later to thank him. The victim told family members that his overturned vehicle was quickly filling with water when Crusha and other rescuers arrived to save him from a possible drowning.

Kansas City District Hosts Eleven Public Meetings on Draft 10-Year Project List

It takes some time to assemble $5.4 billion in transportation projects, but the work is nearly complete. This month, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission released a draft list of the transportation projects and improvements that could improve safety, create jobs, and boost Missouri's economy for the next ten years.

The project list also heralded the opening of a comment period for the public to weigh in the projects chosen before the final list is complete. MoDOT Kansas City launched an industrious public meeting schedule that allowed employees to talk to our customers across the district including Kansas City, Independence, Concordia, Liberty, Sedalia, Warrensburg, Marshall, Blue Springs, Lee's Summit and Oak Grove.

MoDOT engineers, planners, project managers, customer relations staff and members of the local transportation planning commission were on hand to solicit feedback on the potential projects and answer any questions the public had about the projects.

The final list of regional priorities and the public comments received will be submitted to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) for approval on July 9. Review the **final list online** and leave your comments using **the online comment form.**

For more info

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Northeast District

Open Houses Begin Around the Northeast District

Pictured is Tom Batenhorst, transportation planning manager, speaking with attendees at the Hannibal open house held at Mark Twain Museum on June 11.

The Northeast District held its first two open houses a couple of weeks ago to allow the public to view the draft project list and district map for projects that will be funded if Amendment 7 passes on Aug. 5. Northeast MoDOT representatives and Regional Planning Council members were on hand to help answer any questions.

The first open house was held at the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal on June 11. Approximately 80 individuals stopped by to see the proposed list and ask questions. The second event was held June 12 at the Student Union Building on the Truman State University campus with approximately 40 individuals attending. "Overall, the feedback we received on the list was generally positive," said Kevin James, assistant district engineer. "We were very pleased with the attendance at each meeting and appreciated those that stopped by to discuss the list," he added.

Additional open houses are scheduled this week in Warrenton, Louisiana and Moberly.

High Speed Chase Meets Work Zone

Mike McPike and Randy Bland, of Bowling Green Maintenance, were working on a typical Monday, when the unexpected happened. They were flagging in a work zone near Bowling Green when they began to hear sirens. Looking in all directions to see where they were coming from in preparation to let the emergency personnel through, what happened next took them by surprise. They saw a speeding car approaching the work zone, followed closely behind by patrol cars. The speeding car began honking its horn as it approached and moved through the work zone. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Randy Bland (left) and Mike McPike (right) encountered a high speed chase while flagging in a work zone on June 9.

It was determined later that afternoon, that the individuals in the car had stolen a soda from a local convenience store, but were also driving in a car with stolen plates.

Click on the following link to read the entire news story: high speed chase

Around the District...

The makings of a new road begins with a lot of dirt work! The project at Hopewell Hill south of Warrenton continues to make progress. This picture was taken on June 12.

Pictured is the construction area for the South Fork North Fabius River Bridge on Route C in Schuyler County that was flooded after the area received some heavy rains.

An afternoon pop up storm on June 10 caused some high water issues in the southern part of the district.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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June 26, 2014

Northwest District

Long Term Safety Awards

The Northwest District recently recognized our 2014 Long-Term Safety Award recipients. In March of this year, the 2013 Long-Term Safety Award recipients were honored.

Long Term Safety Award recipients are employees who achieved 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or more years without any lost-time injuries or breaks in service. Employees gathered at the district office and then were treated to a breakfast with district leadership and staff from the Safety office.

Congratulations to all of you for your achievement!

**2014 15-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients: Front (l-r): Todd Rounkles, Jason Russell, Steve Rodgers, Kenneth Joliffe
Middle (l-r): Joe Howles, Ed Montgomery, Dave Lybarger, Dave McQueen
Back (l-r): Don Wichern, Diane Sipes, Tony McGaughy**

**2014 15-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients: Front (l-r): Darin Lunsford, Leonard Wilmes
Back: Diane Sipes**

**2014 20-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients: Front (l-r): Rodney Welch, Kris Buczek, Travis Pennington, Thom Judah
2nd Row (l-r): Michael Powell, Krista Burnett, Greg Stervinou, Trevor Leeper
3rd Row (l-r): Mike Lewis, Joe Pappert, Kelly Kurtz, Bryan Dorrel
Back (l-r): Diane Sipes, Don Wichern, Scott Gray**

**2014 25-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients: Front (l-r): Jeff Pittman, Dave Grable, Brian Bottcher
Back (l-r): Diane Sipes, Don Wichern**

**2014 30 and 35-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients:
Front (l-r): Charlie Roach (30 year), Dan Roach (35 year)
Back (l-r): Diane Sipes, Don Wichern**

2013 15-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients (l-r): Don Wichern, Mike Purdy, Sam Stockdall, Donald Troester, Andy Willis, Gina Orozco, Jimmy Becerra, Darrin Harvey

2013 20-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients:
Front (l-r): Tammy Rhoades, Ricky Adams, Bob Hughson
Back (l-r): Russ Love, Tony McGaughy, Curt Schleicher, Robby Blair, Curtis Grossman, James Gillespie

2013 25-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients (l-r): Doug Ragan, Tony McGaughy, Mike Ewigman, Dave Scrivens

2013 30-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipients (l-r): Rod Moore, Tony McGaughy, Brad Gates

2013 35-Year Long-Term Safety Award recipient Mike Gardner was unable to attend the awards event.

Employee Appreciation

Chris Cakes returned to the Northwest District for Employee Appreciation events. When an informal poll was taken across the district, they were by far the preferred choice.

Chris Cakes is a mobile operation that provides both pancakes and entertainment. Events were held at the Chillicothe, Maryville and St. Joseph maintenance facilities and all employees were invited to come, relax, and enjoy breakfast, courtesy of the Northwest District leadership team and staff, who helped serve at each event.

Below are just a few of the photos of the pancake production operation, flipping and catching enjoyed by everyone at all three events.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Take a Child to Work Day 2014

Register by July 18

Southeast District employees are invited to take part in this year's Take a Child to Work Day on **July 23**. This event welcomes employees' children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends to come to work and observe a typical workday.

This year's Take a Child to Work Day will be held Wednesday, July 23. Planned activities are available at the Sikeston District Office and Willow Springs Maintenance Facility.

Here are a few basic guidelines to help make this a safe, fun and meaningful day for everyone:

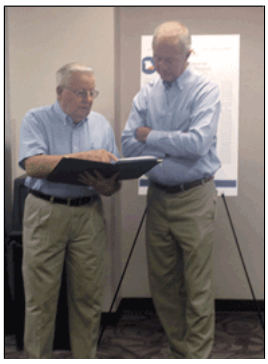
- This event is open for children between the ages of 7 to 15 to participate, with the advance approval of the employees' supervisor.
- No more than two children should accompany each participating employee.
- With the approval and assistance of their supervisors, employees should prepare schedules and arrange workspaces for the children. The children's time spent at work should include interesting job-related activities, where appropriate.
- Employees must have the appropriate manager's approval before children can ride in state vehicles. Children must wear seat belts at all times in MoDOT vehicles. Children may ride in department pickups or cars – no dump trucks. Employees must ride with their child at all times.
- Employees will be responsible for the safety and control of their child.
- No expenditures are to be authorized for meals.
- MoDOT does not allow children to be on or near department equipment when in operation (i.e. mowers, front-end loaders, motor graders, etc.).
- Employees should ensure the children are dressed appropriately, including NO SANDALS.

There will be activities offered at both the Sikeston District Office and Willow Springs Maintenance Facility. Employees bringing their children to work are allowed to participate in these activities with the permission of their supervisor. A schedule of the activities, times and locations will follow in an e-mail closer to the date of the event. Please carpool from remote buildings to the Sikeston or Willow Springs events.

If you would like to participate in Take a Child to Work Day, first contact your supervisor for approval and then register your child for the day's events. To register, please e-mail the following information to Connie Robinson at Connie.Robinson@modot.mo.gov by **July 18.**

- *Employee's Full Name - Work Location - Child's Full Name and Age*
- *Please note if you intend to participate in the planned activities.*

SE Moving Forward Update



Last week, the Southeast District held public meetings in West Plains, Poplar Bluff and Farmington to discuss the draft list of projects for Southeast Missouri. The list is a provision of Constitutional Amendment 7, an Aug. 5 ballot measure to temporarily raise Missouri's sales tax by ¾ cent.

This week, meetings were held in Gainesville and Sikeston/Miner on Monday, as well as in Houston on Wednesday.

Upcoming meetings include:
June 26-Ava City Hall from 4:30-6 p.m.
July 2-Mountain Grove City Hall from 4:30-6 p.m.

The project list and an opportunity to comment are also available online! Please visit http://www.modot.org/movingforward/Regions/SoutheastRegion-MovingForward.htm to review the draft project list and provide your input. Comments will be accepted through July 3. The comments received and the finalized list of projects will be submitted to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on July 9.

Photo caption: Join us at an upcoming meeting to discuss the draft project list or check out the draft list online!

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Comments & Suggestions

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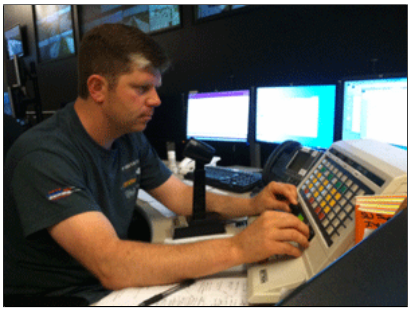

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? (upper left) – Joplin Senior Electrician Floyd Cook makes sure the district's two-way radio system works properly during the statewide earthquake drill June 16 at the Transportation Management Center of the Ozarks in Springfield. (Photo/Angela Eden)

HEADS UP! (upper right) – Carthage Senior Maintenance Worker Phyllis Humphrey flags traffic at one end of a shoulder repair work zone on Route 37 near Avilla. (Photo/David Mitchell)

CHECKING FOR TRAFFIC (lower left) – Anderson Maintenance Worker Shawn Doty assists a driver wanting to cross McDonald County Route C during a fog (pavement) sealing operation east of Goodman. (Photo/David Mitchell)

District Employees Volunteer At Ozarks Food Harvest

by David Mitchell

Ten Southwest District employees volunteered their personal time to help the hungry in Southwest Missouri. They packed food for senior citizens at Ozarks Food Harvest June 24.

Ozarks Food Harvest is a food bank in southwest Missouri, serving 200 hunger-relief organizations across 28 Ozarks counties.

"It was a great opportunity to do something for other people," said Transportation Project Manager Kristi Bachman. "I hate the thought of people being hungry, and this was an opportunity to help."

District employees were part of a larger group of about 20 volunteers who packed more than 900 boxes of food in less than three hours.

"It was hard work," said Traffic Operations Engineer Brandon Campbell. "As a result of keeping focused on the task, we were able to get through all of the materials (Ozarks Food Harvest) had ready for us. I think it surprised them."

Some of the 10 Southwest District employees who volunteered to help pack meals at Ozarks Food Harvest. (Photo/David Mitchell)

"It reminded me of the 'I Love Lucy' episode where she struggles to keep up with the items on the conveyor belt!" added Nevada Area Engineer Darin Hamelink.

In addition to helping others, everyone who volunteered enjoyed the camaraderie.

"It was fun working with a group from work," said Intermediate Paralegal Dottie Roush. "You get to see a different side of people and come to know them better."

Southwest District Interns Get Hands-on Education

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District is employing 11 interns this summer. College students are getting a hands-on, real world look at what a career in their chosen field is like and MoDOT gets help with important projects and potential employees down the road.

Geo Roa, IS intern (Photo/David Mitchell)

Geo Roa is a senior at Missouri State University majoring in computer science. He's interning in the district's information systems department. And while an internship is not required for his degree, he says it's critical nonetheless.

"I'm doing it for the experience. It's something I really needed to get the hands-on feel," said Roa.

Grady Porter agrees. He is a civil engineering senior at Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla.

Porter says it's "a good opportunity for me to basically 'test drive' a career in planning and see if it is something that I would be interested in doing for the rest of my life."

Internships are a two-way street. MoDOT benefits from interns too.

"In the short term we hope to benefit from the fruits of their labor," said Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller. "In the long term we gain a talent pool of future employees and future leaders. If they come to work for us later we also get a more experienced employee."

"Over the last two years I have hired back two of my summer interns," said Springfield Resident Engineer Brad Gripka. "I learn quickly what their work ethic is like and what motivates them."

In fact, two of last year's 10 interns were hired by the district. The interns understand the opportunity too.

"You really need an internship," said Calvin Petrus, a senior at Missouri S&T. "Nobody wants to hire you without it."

This is Kirsty Little's second internship with the district. Kirsty will graduate from Missouri S&T in December. Last year, she interned in the design division. This summer she's in the construction division. The experience has helped her make a career decision.

"I enjoyed design," she said, "but I enjoy being in the field more. The internship helped me make my decision to go into construction."

District interns are integrated into all aspects of the job. They are assigned MoDOT employees to shadow and given real responsibilities for real projects.

"Students are given the opportunity to be involved with actual projects and activities they may have only been exposed to in a classroom setting," said Jim McDiarmid, assistant to the resident engineer in planning, "which allows them to apply the theory of the classroom to real life situations and projects."

Calvin Petrus, Construction intern (Photo/David Mitchell

Matt Koppitz worked several years in the private sector in residential construction before returning to school.

"Coming from the private sector," Matt said, "I'm impressed with the willingness of everyone to help. I look forward to coming to work!"

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TMC Report Shows How Department Keeps Region Running

by Andrew Gates

St. Louis drivers experienced delays of less than 10 minutes in more than 99 percent of MoDOT's work zones around the greater St. Louis area.

This fact, as well as many others, is highlighted in a new report discussing traffic flow around the region in 2013.

The St. Louis Transportation Management Center produced a 2013 annual report which outlined the impacts that the center had on the region. It highlighted the impacts in three general areas:

- Using the Intelligent Transportation System, or ITS, cameras to identify and respond to incidents on the interstates and state roadways.
- Using the Transportation Management Center as a communication hub. This let them get reports of roadway concerns from the public and dispatch the appropriate maintenance team. They were also able to coordinate with construction teams establishing work zones and emergency response teams
- Overseeing and managing the motorist assist program. Operators respond to rapidly changing situations on the roadway to safely assist stranded motorists or protect those involved in crashes.

Tina White-Cronin, senior customer service rep, uses her TMC resources to help keep the rush hour traffic moving smoothly.

"This report summarizes the efforts of the TMC staff over the last year and shows how those efforts translate into less congested roadways for our customers. It also describes how effectively managing nearly 41,000 events and 7,300 lane-blocking incidents kept traffic flowing as smoothly as possible around the clock," said Brian Umfleet, St. Louis traffic operations engineer.

To view the annual report, surf to
http://www.gatewayguide.com/documents/GatewayGuideAnnualReport2013_FinalDRAFT052214.pdf

St. Louis Resident Engineer earns Safety Recognition for April

by Shaunda White

Niall Jansson, a resident engineer, earned safety employee of the month recognition because of his historical commitment of wearing his safety equipment for more than two decades.

Niall Jansson (center) was acknowledged at the SL staff meeting in May for his dedication to safety. He

Jansson, who has been employed with MoDOT since 1991, has not had an incident to date due to his high emphasis on safety. He was nominated by Bill Schnell, assistant district engineer.

While working on the Blanchette Bridge project, Jansson took it upon himself to orchestrate meetings with MoDOT employees and emergency service staff to educate each other and ensure everyone would be prepared if any incidents occurred.

"I'm not doing anything out of the ordinary, I wear my safety equipment at the appropriate times because I understand the importance of staying safe out in the field," said Jansson.

"Niall is a hands on supervisor and you will always see him out in the field advocating a safe work environment. He leads by example

is featured with Lisa Lamons (left), safety & health manager, and Greg Horn (right), district engineer.

and everyone can clearly see how much emphasis he places on safety. He deserves this recognition," said Schnell.

SL Employees help save Lives

The recent American Red Cross Blood Drive, held in the St. Louis district office on June 2, turned out to be a great success. Thanks to the employees that donated, 23 units of blood were collected which can potentially save 69 lives.

More than 20 SL employees volunteered to give blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive on June 2.

Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist Matt Seggerman (sitting) says he never has a problem with donating blood to help save a life.

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Comments & Suggestions

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